

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04067 201223Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4974

S E C R E T JIDDA 4067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJ: PRINCE FAHD ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

SUMMARY: DURING FAREWELL CALL, PRINCE FAHD AGAIN REASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT KING'S RECENT STATEMENTS NOT RPT NOT AIMED AT WEAKENING TIES WITH US BUT WERE AIMED AT ARAB ATMOSPHERE AND WERE MEANT TO BE USEFUL TO PRESIDENT IN EFFORTS EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS REALITIES OF MIDDLE EAST. THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN SAUDI OIL POLICY. PRINCE TOOK MUCH PERSONAL CREDIT FOR NEW TIES BETWEEN JORDAN AND EGYPT AND FOR EGYPTIAN POLICY OF ELIMINATING TRACES OF NASSERISM. AMBASSADOR MADE POINTS THAT PRESIDENT HAS PLACED ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE HIGH ON HIS LIST AND THAT USG PLACED UTMOST SIGNIFICANCE ON LEVEL OF OIL PRODUCTION. AMBASSADOR INTERPRETS CONVERSATION AS GENUINELY REFLECTING SAUDI MOOD OF SUSPENSE AND RESTRAINT AS SAG CONTINUES GAUGE IMPACT ON US POLICIES OF RECENT AND CONTINUING MEDIA FURORE OVER ENERGY AND ARAB OIL. BODY TELEGRAM DRAFTED BY AMB THACHER PRIOR TO DEPARTURE 9/19. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A LONG DISQUISITION OCCASIONED BY MY FAREWELL CALL, PRINCE FAHD EXPOUNDED HIS VIEWS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST IN HIS USUAL COURTEOUS AND CONCILIATORY FASHION. POINTS OF INTEREST MADE BY HIS HIGHNESS FOLLOW:

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04067 201223Z

A. KING FAISAL'S COMMENTS ON NBC INTERVIEW AND IN

NEWSWEEK: EARLY DURING MEETING FAHD REFERRED TO THESE SOMEWHAT VAGUELY AS INTENDED TO AFFECT THE ARAB ATMOSPHERE." WHEN I ASKED HIM TO CLARIFY, HE STATED KING'S REMARKS NOT AIMED IN ANY WAY AT WEAKENING TIES WITH US; RATHER, FAISAL SOUGHT MAKE COMMENTS THAT WOULD "BE HELPFUL IN THE PRESENT ARAB ATMOSPHERE," AND WHICH WOULD DEFLATE SOME OF THE GREAT PRESSURES IN THE ARAB WORLD BEING GENERATED BY ARAB RADICALS. IN ADDITION, KING HAD FELT HIS COMMENTS WOULD BE USEFUL TO PRESIDENT AND DEPARTMENT IN THEIR EFFORTS EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS REALITIES OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

B. SAUDI OIL POLICY: FAHD VOLUNTEERED COMMENT THAT "THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE." WHEN I ASKED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION, HE DECLARED THAT USG SHOULD UNDERSTAND SAUDI ARABIA WISHED GO ON PLAYING ITS APPROPRIATE ROLE IN SUPPLY OF WORLD'S PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, US SHOULD RECOGNIZE ALSO THAT ITS LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT RESOLUTION OF LONG FESTERING MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. FAHD DELCARED HE HAD INSTRUCTED HISHAM NAZER AND ZAKI YAMANI MAKE CLEAR SAUDI GOVERNMENT POSITION IN THIS REGARD IN CONTACTS DURING THEIR CURRENT VISIT TO US, INCLUDING STRONG SAG DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH US.

C. SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND JORDAN: PRINCE TOOK MUCH CREDIT FOR RENEWAL OF EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS, INDICATING SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF CAIRO MEETINGS HAD BEEN LARGELY RESULT OF SAUDI PERSUASIVENESS. RECOGNIZING SAUDI SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION, KING HUSSAIN HAD WANTED TRIPARTITE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND EVEN SADAT HAD RAISED NO OBJECTION. KING FAISAL, HOWEVER, DID NOT REQUIRE A MEETING TO BE HLD UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS REFLECTING SAUDI ARABIAN PRESSURE ON PARTICIPANTS. FAHD ESPECIALLY PROUD OF MANNER IN WHICH SAUDI INFLUENCE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO BEAR TO ENCOURAGE ELIMINATION LAST VESTIGES NASSERISM IN EGYPTIAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 04067 201223Z

ECONOMY. SADAT HAD BECOME CONVINCED DESIRABILITY MOVING TOWARDS CREATION ATMOSPHERE MORE HOSPITABLE TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT. SAUDIS HAD BEEN INTERESTED TO LEARN OF RECENT SOVIET DOUBTS REGARDING EGYPTIAN POLICY WHICH IT APPEARED MIGHT SPRING FROM RECENT CHANGES IN EGYPTIANS' MANNER OPERATING THEIR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. QADHAFI ON OTHER HAND WAS SHOWING HIS IMMATURITY BY CONTINUING ENDEAVORS TO PURSUE DEAD THEORIES OF NASSERISM AND, FOLLOWING THIS PATH, HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DO SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE TO LIBYAN STATE AND ECONOMY AS

NASSER HAD TO EGYPT.

D. ARAB-ISRAEL: AS USUAL, FAHD TOUCHED ON THIS TOPIC RATHER ELLIPTICALLY. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS IMPORTANT ELEMENT AFFECTING ENTIRE STABILITY OF REGION AND HE URGED CONTINUED CLOSE ATTENTION BY USG.

2. PRINCE ASKED HIS MOST RESPECTFUL GOOD WISHES BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT AND TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO. HE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON DR. KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT, DECLARING HE ACCEPTED FULLY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S AFFIRMATION THAT HE WAS FIRST AND FOREMOST LOYAL US CITIZEN. HE LOOKED FORWARD HOPEFULLY TO APPLICATION OF KISSINGER'S PROVEN DIPLOMATIC TALENTS TO SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. AT APPROPRIATE TIME IT WOULD BE PLEASURE TO MEET WITH NEW SECRETARY.

3. I FOUND OPPORTUNITY GET ACROSS CLEARLY TO FAHD:

A. ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE REMAINS HIGH ON PRESIDENT'S LIST OF PRIORITIES. IT WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INTENSIVE USG CONSIDERATION; B. WE CONSIDER PROBLEM OF LEVELS OF OIL PRODUCTION ONE OF UTMOST SIGNIFICANCE, AND REMINDED FAHD THAT AS STATED IN SECRETARY'S LETTER TO HIM WE HOPED STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SAG ON THIS MATTER.

4. COMMENT: LENGTH OF FAHD'S COMMENT AND OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO HIS OWN ROLE IN SPECIFIC EVENTS CLEARLY SHOWED HE WISHED ME UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS PRINCE MOST FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF SAUDI DECISION-MAKING. THERE WAS NOTHING EVEN FAINTLY THREATENING IN PRINCE'S REMARKS,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 JIDDA 04067 201223Z

BUT UNRESOLVED ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE BROUGHT IN SEVERAL TIMES AS ACCUTELY AGGRAVATING PROBLEM FOR COUNTRIES OF REGION AND ONE ON WHICH US ASSISTANCE BADLY NEEDED. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FAHD'S STYLE IS REASSURING, CONCILIATORY, WITH MINIMIZATION OF PRICKLY OR DISPUTATIOUS ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE INCLINED THINK HIS REMARKS ALSO RELFECT PRESENT SAUDI MOOD OF SUSPENSE AND RESTRAINT ADOPTED WHILE THEY CONTINUE GAUGE IMPACT ON US POLICIES OF RECENT MEDIA FUROR OVER OIL, ARABS, AND ENERGY.  
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